

Promising Practices for Goal Eight: Parental Participation

Every school will promote partnerships that will increase involvement and participation in promoting the social, emotional and academic growth of children.

For Goal Eight, the National Education Goals Panel focused on parental involvement in schools from the perspective of teachers and principals. The Panel recognized the following states for a reduction in the percentage of teachers and principals who reported that a lack of parental involvement was a serious problem.

In **North Dakota**, only 3 percent of principals and 13 percent of teachers reported that a lack of parental involvement is a serious problem at their schools.

- The community values education, and teachers are shown respect.
- The state has launched initiatives to enhance opportunities for parent participation. Prior to 1994, the state began a strong, three-year program monitoring Title 1, including parent involvement provisions of the program.
- In 1993, North Dakota launched a Middle School Program Standards initiative that includes a parent involvement component.

In **Vermont**, 6 percent of principals and 17 percent of teachers reported a serious lack of parental involvement.

- The state has a culture of small communities.
- Historically, the state has held parent involvement in high regard by including parents in the development of its education frameworks.
- The state's special education office emphasizes collaboration between school and home. Parent involvement is also emphasized in a statewide initiative for early reading success.

In **Wyoming**, 17 percent of teachers reported that a lack of parental involvement was a serious problem.

- Like the other two states, Wyoming has small, tightly knit communities where schools are the "center of our towns."
- The state works hard to ensure parental involvement through its school accreditation process. Staff members conducting on-site accreditation visits use a "Parent and Community Involvement" checklist.
- Local districts involve parents and the community in the activities and direction of the school district.

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